

Application No. 10/612,649
Reply dated: December 7, 2005
Reply to Office action of September 7, 2005

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated September 7, 2005, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration based on the above claim amendment and the following remarks. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance.

Claim 24 has been previously canceled, without prejudice, claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 14-16 and 18 have been amended, and claims 8-13 and 19-23 have been previously withdrawn. No new matter has been added by the amendment.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In order for an obviousness rejection to be proper, the Examiner must meet the burden of establishing that all elements of the invention are disclosed in the prior art; that the prior art relied upon, coupled with knowledge generally available in the art at the time of the invention, must contain some suggestion or incentive that would have motivated the skilled artisan to modify a reference or combined references; and that the proposed modification of the prior art must have had a reasonable expectation of success, determined from the vantage point of the skilled artisan at the time the invention was made. *In re Fine*, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1598 (Fed. Cir. 1988); *In re Wilson*, 165 U.S.P.Q. 494, 496 (C.C.P.A. 1970); *Amgen v. Chugai Pharmaceuticals Co.*, 927 U.S.P.Q.2d, 1016, 1023 (Fed. Cir. 1996). See MPEP 2143.

Claims 1-3, 5, 14, 15 and 17

Claims 1-3, 5, 14, 15 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted Prior Art (Hereinafter "APA") in view of Maeda et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0054269 (hereinafter "Maeda"). The Examiner has stated that the claimed invention would have been obvious over the teachings of APA Figures 1-4 and Maeda at the time the invention was made. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Regarding claims 1 and 14, the examiner states that "As shown in Figs. 1 and 2, Meada discloses ... edges of the second region T including a boundary 2a (recessed portion) between the first and second regions R and T and an opening portion (between 2a) where the second region T does not contact the first region R". However, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's analysis that the recessed portion corresponds to the boundary 2a, and the edges of the second

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region T include the opening portion between 2a.

As shown in Paragraph [0057], Maeda discloses that "More specifically, a recessed portion 2a is formed ..., a periphery of a portion having the recessed portion 2a formed therein is formed to be a projecting portion 2b, the transparent electrode 6c is formed on an inner surface of the recessed portion 2b(according to the applicants' analysis, this is a misprinting of '2a'). The reflective electrode unit (a reflective means) 6a includes a light-reflective metal electrode that is formed on an upper surface of the projecting portion 2b, and *the reflective electrode unit 6a that is connected in an integrated manner to the transparent electrode unit 6c to constitute the electrode 6.*" *Id.* In other words, the transparent electrode 6c is formed on the recessed portion 2a so that the recessed portion 2a cannot be the boundary between the second region T where the recessed portion 2a is formed and the first region R where the projecting portion 2b is formed, and the boundary is on a stepped portion between the recessed portion 2a and the projecting portion 2b. Therefore, Maeda does not teach or suggest the second region including a first boundary and a second boundary of claims 1 and 14 as amended.

In addition, *Maeda does not teach the opening portion between the recessed portion 2a where the reflective electrode unit 6a that is connected in the integrated manner to the transparent electrode unit 6c to constitute the electrode 6 is formed.* As shown in paragraph [0056], *"Individual rectangular through holes 6b are formed in a center portion of the electrodes 6 corresponding to these divided pixel areas G1 to G3, and the transparent electrode units 6c are formed inside there through holes 6b"*. Thus, the first region R where the reflective electrode unit 6a is formed contacts the second region T wherein the transparent electrode unit 6c is formed. Also, the first region R is surrounded by the second region T. Therefore, Maeda does not teach or suggest that the second boundary is a remaining boundary of the second region except for the first boundary of claims 1 and 14 as amended.

In addition, in claims 1 and 14 as amended, the second region includes a first boundary and a second boundary wherein the first boundary is a boundary between the first and second regions and the second boundary is a remaining boundary of the second region except for the first boundary. In other words, *only a portion of the second region is surrounded by the first region to form the second boundaries.* Furthermore, an orientation groove is rubbed in a first direction toward the second boundary, the orientation groove preventing impurity from being stacked at the first boundary.

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In contrast, APA Figures 2 to 4 discloses an orientation groove rubbed toward only the first boundary that is the boundary between the first and second regions. In addition, in APA Figures 2 to 4, an entire of the second region 14a is surrounded by the first region 14b to form only the first boundary. Furthermore, as shown in Maeda Figures 1 and 2, the transparent electrode 6c on the recessed portion 2a of the second region T is surrounded by the reflective electrode 6a on the projecting portion 2b of the first region R to form only the first boundary. Thus, impurities or ions may be stacked at the first boundary, contrary to the claimed invention.. Therefore, APA and Maeda do not teach or disclose the orientation groove rubbed in a first direction toward the second boundary and the second boundary is a remaining boundary of the second region except for the first boundary of amended claims 1 and 14.

Thus, APA and Maeda, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the limitations of claims 1 and 14 as amended. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 14 are not further rejected or objected and are allowable. Accordingly, claims 2, 3, 5, 15 and 17 are correspondingly allowable as depending upon claims 1 and 14. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-3, 5, 14, 15 and 17 is respectfully requested.

Claims 4, 6, 7, 16 and 18

Claims 4, 6, 7, 16 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over APA in view of Maeda and further in view of Kubo et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,452,654 (hereinafter "Kubo"). The Examiner has stated that the claimed invention would have been obvious over the teachings of APA, Maeda and Kubo at the time the invention was made. Applicants respectfully traverse.

As mentioned above, neither APA nor Maeda, either alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the orientation groove rubbed in the first direction towards the second boundary, as claimed in claims 1 and 14. Kubo also does not teach this limitation of claims 1 and 14 and does not cure the deficiencies of APA and Maeda.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that neither APA, Maeda nor Kubo, alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the subject matter claimed in amended claims 1 and 14. Therefore, claims 4, 6 and 7 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and thus include all the

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limitations of claim 1. In addition, claims 16 and 18 depend indirectly from claim 14 and thus include all the limitations of claim 14.

Accordingly, it is believed that claims 4, 6, 7, 16 and 18 are allowable due to their dependency on claims 1 and 14, which are believed to be allowable. Examiner's reconsideration and allowance of claims 4, 6, 7, 16 and 18 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued.

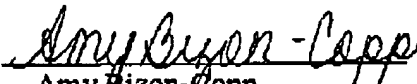
If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is cordially requested to telephone the undersigned.

In the event the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks deems additional fees to be due in connection with this application, Applicants' attorney hereby authorizes that such fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-1130

If there are any charges due with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130 maintained by Applicants' attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

CANTOR COLBURN LLP

By: 

Amy Bizon-Copp
Reg. No. 53,993
CANTOR COLBURN LLP
55 Griffin Road South
Bloomfield, CT 06002
Telephone (860) 286-2929
Facsimile (860) 286-0115

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